(*b*) whether there was a chemical laboratory in the salt factories and whether it still exists ; and

(*c*) if it still exists, whether it is being made use of for the purpose for which it is intended and whether there is anybody in the factories qualified to conduct chemical analysis of the salt manufactured in the *alloms* ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) :

(*a*) In 1097, two samples of inferior salt manufactured in the Srimulagopalanathan *allom* were sent to the Chemical Examiner to Government for examination and were examined by him, and one sample was condemned.

(*b*) and (*c*) The answer is in the negative.

Technical Knowledge of Officers in Salt Factories.

67. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether any of the officers now in the Salt Factories have any technical knowledge or training in salt manufacture, and, if so, the names of such officers ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : The officers engaged in the salt factories have not been trained technically in salt manufacture but they have obtained the necessary knowledge by experience.

Loss of Salt to Mr. Karayalar.

68. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state who was responsible for the loss of salt belonging to Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar during the recent floods ?

(*b*) What action, if any, has been taken by Government to fix the responsibility in this matter ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) :

(*a*) The cyclone was responsible.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

69. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the salt that was washed away by the cyclone was in the ridges for nine months instead of being removed, until Mr. Karayalar and several other licensees had petitioned to Government that the salt should be removed, that the Excise Commissioner condemned the salt as being unfit for consumption and that Government ultimately—

PRESIDENT : You are making a speech instead of asking a question.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): My question is whether it is a fact that the salt washed away was on the ridges for nine months instead of being removed to the platforms as is usually done—

PRESIDENT : You may put your questions one by one.

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